

I have chosen to purchase the hardware and services from XM because I believe the options provided by the local radio stations do not suffice my needs. My constant travel in the New England Area forces me to be on the constant look out for the various station that deliver the music, news and information I need as I drive from one state, county, city, to another. XM Radio solve the constant search and reprogramming of stations as drove from Boston to New York. The local weather report now provided is an added benefit to the service. If anything I was surprised it was not available earlier. Also, I look forward to more local news/sport/weather/ to become available through my XM radio. XM radio has comes in crystal clear on occasions when local station were only providing me with static or untimely information. The traffic report station on the highway varies by are therefore I never know where the local traffic news is available. Once again, XM has solved this problem for me.

Additionally, XM provides local information at the nationwide level. If I am in California and wanted to know about the news and weather condition in the northeast the local news in California wont provide this detail, only XM can! Maybe in the future with local information being provided nationwide everyone will become more aware of nationwide situations. Local weather approach should be used towards sports where XM can transmit local Red Sox games through a channel and I can listen to it in Colorado because I took my detachable XM radio with me on my trip in order to keep abreast of local information back home.

Finally, why should the NAB intrude onto XM business of communicating local traffic and weather, when the FCC has made it mandatory for the local radio stations transmit in digital signal in the coming years. Therefore, interfering with XM's business. In a quid pro quo environment if the local station will start transmitting digital signals then WHY NOT let XM transmit traffic and weather!!. This would provide an even playing field where customers such as myself will choose the best option that meets their needs. I have chosen to PAY for a service that it is FREE - that goes to show that the free service provided by local radio stations was not satisfactory.

I urge the FCC to reject the NAB's petition 04-160. Allowing this to go through would only show that the FCC is indeed in the NAB pocket by forcing local radio stations to compete digitally while inhibiting XM's ability to provide additional services.